

Bristol, January 2nd 1840

My dear Mr. May,

The Britannia which arrived on the 31st ult, brought to my breakfast table yesterday morning a most welcome New Year's gift, — your letter of Dec^r 15 & Liberator's, (1 of Dec^r 17) a Christian World, & a Standard of Dec^r 16th, the latter might have come by another ship.

On Tuesday last Dec^r 20, Mr. Armstrong rec^d the first announcement we had had of the arrival of our "Reply," it was in a letter dated Dec^r 1st intended I presume for the first month Boston Packet of last month. Your intimation by the Lib^r did not reach me, but seeing my letter to the Lib^r had been inserted, I felt no fears for our Document. Mr. J. F. Clarke's letter to Mr. Armstrong — (very similar to his remarks in the "World" you kindly sent) was so complete an answer to the objections of numerous Unitⁿ Ministers & others for signing our Address, that we sent it to the Inquirer, & there I see it to day. The "Register" I have not yet seen. I doubt not the Inquirer will extract any opposite views contained therein.

All the contents of your last letter, whether as relating personally to yourself, or to the public cause in which you are labouring, are interesting to me. The delay of the British box was unknown to us. I was sent hence, & have I hope, arrived here this time! My last com^m to you, was a note in a letter of Mr. Carpenter's by the ~~next~~ packet of Dec^r 4th — I should

sending you by the 10th Packet, a droll "Punch" but did not succeed.
I am now sufficiently versed in U.S. politics to see the shallowness of Mr. Clay's speech, & to enjoy Mr. Quincy's strictures on it.

You exercised, I doubt not a wise discretion in reading to Mr. Garrison what I said about his health. It is a great mistake to avoid telling persons whose mental health is threatened of their tendencies & dangers. Self-government is fully as necessary, & fully as efficacious here, as in bodily ailments. I shall rejoice to know of Mr. G.'s thorough restoration to complete health, but it will not surprise me to hear that his severe illness may have left some change in him either, of mind or physical condition.

Miss Carpenter has received a letter from Mr. Livermore in which he speaks of slaveholders as no worse than Irish Landlords, & he has some theory that the Irish & Germans in America may be considered as the cause of the Mexican War, as they caused Mr. Polk's election. (?)

It is I think very probable that Mr. Knapp may aim to keep himself somewhat distant from any very decided Abolitionists, & from Anti Slavery meetings. He is not a man to disguise his opinions when he finds himself so situated as that silence might be misunderstood, but going to the U.S. upon a lecturing speculation, he may not feel called upon unnecessarily to excite prejudice against him. When he first talked of going, & consulted me about it, I dissuaded to disengage him (for then he would not easily have found pecuniary means) & among other arguments said

I thought his known A. S. character might be disadvantageous
to him in obtaining auditors. He did not sign the Reply
lately sent. Mr. Jas. Haughton, I suspect, would think an
A. S. man going to America would disgrace himself (if he did
not incur all possible odium by declaring Abolition views,
& adopting ^{some} ostensible Abolition measures; but I do not think
the majority of sincere Abol. of this country would think
this course called for. The position of a resident in the U. S.
& a Visitor, in this matter, I think very different. Mr. Smith's
opinions are well known, & he may not consider Anti Slavery
as his present mission in America.

Mr. Clark has stated the argument of Slaveholders acting ac-
cording to their light & convictions, much as it is employed here.
For my own part I am sceptical as to many Slaveholders being
ignorant that holding slaves is ~~not~~ sinful, and if they
really are so, it is time they should be taught better mo-
rality. Neither of Miss Carpenter's 3 brothers would sign the Reply,
each seemed to have different reasons.

3rd 2 1/2 P. M. I must send you but a shabby letter by this Mail
as my time is short. At 2 1/2 an hour I am expecting a meeting
at my house of the Trustees of one of our Chapel Charitable Funds to
disburse its bounty, consisting of Mrs. Armstrong, James, & W.
Ames (a W. India Merchant my particular friend) D. W. Carpenter
(who is visiting his family) & myself. before the letter must
be posted. But I have alluded to most of your topics. In case I can
add no more I now subscribe myself yours very sincerely J. B. Estlin.

Mr. Amos says the article in the Register is thoroughly
disgraceful. Muller was the first American he ever cut
to in New York, & that was at Dr. Carpenter's when he was
living, & they all were astonished at his apathy on the
subject, - indicating indeed the new-fidelity of the system.

JA L 4

MASS-SIDE

Jan. 2/48.

No Ship Jan. 4, -
changed to Jan. 1, -
Patent.

Rec'd. Feb. 1.

Now again, delivered

Seller in Standard

Feb. 3. Rev. S. May,

To the care of Samuel May Esq,

Boston
U.S.

near Mr. Parker's shop
(in Howell's house)
about 1000 pounds
weight of it. May
was & taking length
from all surrounding
about it.
Sutcliffe, & Robinson

Franklin